

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please cancel claims 7, 8, and 9 and amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising: a modified RNA and a transfection reagent wherein said modified RNA consists of a ~~functional~~ hydrophobic group post-synthetically linked to an RNA via a labile bond cleavable under mammalian physiological conditions and wherein said ~~functional~~ hydrophobic group enhances interaction of said RNA with said transfection reagent and wherein said modified RNA is selected from the group consisting of silylated RNA, acylated RNA, and alkylated RNA.
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the functional group is linked to a ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA.
5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the ~~functional~~ hydrophobic group is selected from the list consisting of: ~~hydrophobic group, and~~ membrane active compound, cell penetrating compound, cell targeting signal, interaction modifier, and steric stabilizer.
6. (previously presented) The composition of claim 4 wherein the RNA is modified at: a single ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA, more than one but not all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA, or all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA.
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the RNA is selected from the group consisting of siRNA and microRNA.
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA is more resistant to nucleases than the RNA if it were not linked to the functional group.
14. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein a plurality of functional groups are attached to said RNA via labile bonds.